

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 - (currently amended)
Claim 2 - (original)
Claim 3 - (canceled)
Claim 4 - (canceled)
Claim 5 - (original)
Claim 6 - (original)
Claim 7 - (original)
Claim 8 - (currently amended)
Claim 9 - (original)
Claim 10 - (canceled)
Claim 11 - (canceled)

1. (currently amended) A linear measuring device comprising:

a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and inner volume;

a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape housing in a generally spiral configuration with an outer end extendable through said tape outlet opening;

an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end and an inner end and a fixed length as measured between said outer end and said inner end, said rear tail movably mounted on said tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear tail operative to project outwards from said tape housing;

a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends, said inner end of said forward tongue hingedly mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape with said forward tongue extending forwards therefrom, said forward tongue being pivotable between a retracted position in general parallel alignment with and contacting said measuring tape and an extended position extending outwards generally parallel with said measuring tape, said outer end of said forward tongue being generally free of projecting objects mounted thereon whereby said outer end of said forward tongue is operative to be extended into narrow openings;

1 at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape, an outer measurement of said
2 at least two sets of measurements displaying the total extended distance of said measuring
3 tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner measurement of said at least
4 two sets of measurements displaying the total distance between said outer end of said rear
5 tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that outer and inner measurements are
6 simultaneously displayed on said measuring tape.

7

8 2. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said inner
9 measurement further comprises the length of said rear tail plus the length of said forward tongue plus
10 the length of said tape housing between said tape outlet opening and the connection of said rear tail
11 to said tape housing plus the total extended distance of said measuring tape from said outer end to
12 said tape outlet opening ($L_{Rear\ Tail} + L_{Forward\ Tongue} + L_{Tape\ Housing} + L_{Tape}$) whereby the total distance
13 between the outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue is shown by said
14 inner measurement free of addition of the individual length measurements of each of the rear tail,
15 forward tongue, tape housing and measuring tape.

16

17 3. (canceled).

18

19 4. (canceled).

20

21 5. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said inner end of said
22 rear tail is hingedly mounted on said tape housing generally adjacent the lower surface of said tape
23 housing, said rear tail pivotable between a retracted position generally adjacent said tape housing and
24 an extended position generally parallel with said outer end of said measuring tape in the opposite
25 direction therefrom.

26

27 6. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein said inner end of said
28 rear tail is retractably mounted within said tape housing with said outer end of said rear tail

1 extending partially outwards from said tape housing when said rear tail is housed within said tape
2 housing such that said outer end of said rear tail may be engaged to withdraw said rear tail from said
3 tape housing thereby moving said rear tail into an extended position generally parallel with said outer
4 end of said measuring tape in the opposite direction therefrom.

5

6 7. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 1 wherein:

7

8 said forward tongue is hingedly mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape;

9

10 said inner end of said rear tail is hingedly mounted on said tape housing generally adjacent the lower
11 surface of said tape housing; and

12

13 said hinged connection of said forward tongue and said hinged connection of said rear tail each
14 including hinge stop means to restrict rotation of said forward tongue and said rear tail
15 beyond an extended position for each wherein both said forward tongue and said rear tail are
16 generally parallel with said outer end of said measuring tape for facilitating accurate
17 measuring of inner measurements of objects to be measured.

18

19 8. (currently amended) A linear measuring device comprising:

20

21 a tape housing having an outer surface, a tape outlet opening and inner volume;

22

23 a generally semi-flexible measuring tape housed within said tape housing in a generally spiral
24 configuration with an outer end extendable through said tape outlet opening;

25

26 an extendable generally flat planar rear tail having an outer end and an inner end and a fixed length
27 as measured between said outer end and said inner end, said rear tail pivotably mounted on
28 said tape housing generally opposite said tape outlet opening, said rear tail operative to

1 project outwards from said tape housing;

2

3 a generally flat planar forward tongue having inner and outer ends, said inner end of said forward
4 tongue pivotably mounted on said outer end of said measuring tape, said outer end of said
forward tongue being generally free of projecting objects mounted thereon whereby said
outer end of said forward tongue is operative to be extended into narrow openings, said
5 forward tongue pivotal between a retracted position contacting said measuring tape and
6 an extended position extending outwards from said measuring tape;

7

8 at least two sets of measurements displayed on said measuring tape, an outer measurement of said
9 at least two sets of measurements displaying the total extended distance of said measuring
10 tape from said outer end to said tape outlet opening, an inner measurement of said at least
11 two sets of measurements displaying the total distance between said outer end of said rear
12 tail and said outer end of said forward tongue such that outer and inner measurements are
13 simultaneously displayed on said measuring tape.

14

15

16

17 9. (original) The dual option tape measure of claim 8 wherein said inner
18 measurement further comprises the length of said rear tail plus the length of said forward tongue plus
19 the length of said tape housing between said tape outlet opening and the connection of said rear tail
20 to said tape housing plus the total extended distance of said measuring tape from said outer end to
21 said tape outlet opening ($L_{Rear\ Tail} + L_{Forward\ Tongue} + L_{Tape\ Housing} + L_{Tape}$) whereby the total distance
22 between the outer end of said rear tail and said outer end of said forward tongue is shown by said
23 inner measurement free of addition of the individual length measurements of each of the rear tail,
24 forward tongue, tape housing and measuring tape.

25

26 10. (canceled).

27

28 11. (canceled).